

## Claims

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1. A water based ink composition for a ballpoint pen which comprises an alkali-swelling associative thickener comprising a polymer having a carboxyl group and a hydrophobic group, a pigment, a polar solvent containing water and a pH controlling agent.

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2. The water based ink composition for a ballpoint pen as described in claim 1, wherein the alkali-swelling associative thickener is contained in a proportion of 0.1 to 8 % by weight (polymer component) based on the ink composition and dissolves and swells in an alkaline area in the polar solvent containing water to associate with the particle surface of the pigment, thereby increasing

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the ink viscosity.

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3. The water based ink composition for a ballpoint pen as described in claim 2, wherein the pigment particles are subjected to surface treatment with a pigment surface-treating agent.

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4. The water based ink composition for a ballpoint pen as described in claim 3, wherein the pigment surface-treating agent is a water soluble polymer and/or a surfactant.

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